



Department of Justice

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CHICAGO MEN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN CONSPIRACY TO BUY GUNS

- Charles Thornton sentenced to 3 years and 1 month*
- Elder Dantzler sentenced to 1 years*
- Gangster Disciples gang receives gun*

LOUISVILLE, KY - Charles Thornton, a/k/a "Shorty" a/k/a "Lil Charles," age 36, of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced on September 7, 2007, to 3 years and 1 month imprisonment, and Elder Dantzler, a/k/a Jesse Dantzler, age 31, of Maywood, Illinois, was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, both in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, and both for their roles in a conspiracy to purchase firearms in violation of federal firearms laws, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. John G. Heyburn, II, Chief Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Thornton and Dantzler each to 3 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Thornton and Dantzler had pled guilty to engaging in a conspiracy in 2000, in which individuals in Kentucky were paid to provide false information to federally-licensed firearms dealers to obtain firearms, which were then transferred to others in violation of federal law. These individuals ultimately purchased seven guns, one of which was recovered in the hands of a self-identified member of the Gangster Disciples, a street gang in Chicago, Illinois, following the controlled purchase of narcotics in that city. During the course of the conspiracy, several of

Thornton and Dantzler's co-conspirators removed the serial numbers from four of the handguns they obtained.

Vido said that "the results of this investigation show the ATF's continued commitment to combat violent crime committed by these street gangs. Helping firearms get into the hands of gang members will not be tolerated. Our number one goal is to keep our communities safe."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Ann Claire Phillips and David Weiser. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

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